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JORDAN-PLO: Hussein's Talks With Arafat

King Hussein and PLO chief Arafat are continuing efforts to broaden their political cooperation as a means of maintaining the PLO's flexibility on the US initiative. [redacted]

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Arafat, in his talks with Hussein in Amman over the weekend, urged the King not to interpret the recent statement issued by the Palestine Central Council as a rejection of the initiative. He claimed PLO members were increasingly aware of the proposal's positive elements.

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The PLO leader underlined his interest in continuing to explore the proposal by calling for a joint committee, which was established and met yesterday. It is to study PLO relations with Jordan and the possibilities of a joint PLO-Jordanian approach to peace negotiations. The committee would conclude its work by mid-December so the results can be reviewed before Hussein's scheduled meeting with President Reagan on 21 December.

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To keep the peace process moving, Hussein reasserted the desirability of the PLO's accepting UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognizing the right of Israel to exist. He also urged Arafat to abandon the PLO's goal for an independent Palestinian state and to accept the US initiative, which calls for a Palestinian-Jordanian link.

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Comment: The two leaders seem to share a desire to keep the momentum alive. Arafat, however, remains uncertain about support within the PLO.

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Hussein will interpret Arafat's willingness to discuss a joint approach as evidence of his seriousness to explore the US initiative, and he will continue to push Arafat for a decision. The King wants to be in a better position to speak authoritatively in Washington on how far the PLO will be prepared to go in cooperating with the US proposal.

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Opium Growing and Tribal Areas in the North-West Frontier Province



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PAKISTAN: Narcotics Problem

1-6 Pakistan remains reluctant to acknowledge the scope of its narcotics problem or to combat it. Despite a ban on poppy cultivation since 1979, this year enough opium was produced or stockpiled in Pakistan--or smuggled there from Afghanistan--to meet much of the demand for heroin in Western Europe and the US. More heroin was seized in Pakistan than in any other nation, but the US Embassy reports up to 30 laboratories may be producing heroin in tribal areas of the North-West Frontier Province.

[redacted]

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8 Comment: During President Zia's visit to the US next month, Pakistani officials are likely to reaffirm their pledge to raid heroin laboratories and will credit a drop in local opium production in the last three years to Zia's ban. In fact, low opium prices resulting from bumper crops and imports from Afghanistan were the main reasons for the decline. Zia, whose backing would be necessary for an effective antinarcotics campaign, is concerned about the problem but recognizes such an effort in the North-West Province would undermine its weak economy, aggravate the refugee situation, and provoke hostility from the Pushtun tribes. A well-publicized raid on a heroin laboratory may be made just before Zia's visit to lessen anticipated US pressure.

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